

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, HU

SUBJECT: CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT AND
PROPOSAL FOR AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

REF: BUDAPEST 3187 AND 3207

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES SUGGESTIONS WHICH EMBASSY HAS
PUT FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS FOR A CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. FOL-
LOWING ARE DEPARTMENT'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE 20 PRIORITY
AREAS MENTIONED IN BUDAPEST 3187.

2. SEVERAL OF EMBASSY ITEMS (E.G. NO. 7 ON ATHLETIC/
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, NO. 15 ON EDUCATION, NO. 19 ON ENERGY
TECHNOLOGY) ARE INCLUDED IN ARTICLES IN OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT
(STATE 201490). OTHERS SUCH AS NO. 1 ON TRANSPORTATION OR
NO. 17 ON JURISPRUDENCE CAN BE INCLUDED UNDER THE CATCH-ALL
ARTICLE VII IN OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT. SOME OTHERS WE WOULD
JUDGE NOT PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR ANY GOVERNMENT
INVOLVEMENT, E.G. NO. 12 ON MUSEUM EXCHANGES AND NO. 13 ON
CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND HUNGARIAN PUBLISHERS, ALTHOUGH WE
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COULD MENTION THEM AS POSSIBLE AREAS OF PRIVATE EXCHANGES

OR DISCUSSIONS.

3. WE SEE TWO CRUCIAL ELEMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXCHANGES: (A) MUTUAL INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES; AND (B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF EXCHANGES AND/OR COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS. WE CANNOT KNOW FOR SURE WHAT WILL BE THE EXTENT OF US INTEREST AT THE BEGINNING OF A PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES WITH HUNGARY. IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME FOR THE US SIDE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT HAS AN INTEREST IN HUNGARIAN GEOLOGY/HYDROLOGY, FOR EXAMPLE. THE SECOND ELEMENT, THAT OF MONEY, IS EQUALLY RELEVANT. INTEREST IN A PROGRAM WITHOUT MONEY TO INVEST IN IT WILL NOT PROMOTE THE EXCHANGES PROGRAM VERY FAR OR VERY FAST. FOR SUBJECTS SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, MEDICAL RESEARCH, STANDARDS AND COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, WE WILL NEED TO ESTABLISH THAT THERE IS A REAL INTEREST ON THE US SIDE TO GET INVOLVED WITH HUNGARIAN COUNTERPARTS AND THAT THERE ARE FUNDS TO COMMIT. WE ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT DOT HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE HUNGARIANS, AND WE MAY ANTICIPATE THAT COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORTATION MAY INTENSIFY UNDER THE AEGIS OF A CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THINGS ARE LIKELY TO MOVE SLOWLY AS THE TWO SIDES BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MISTRUST MUST BE CIRCUMVENTED, AND SINCERITY MUST BE TESTED. ON THE US SIDE, FUNDS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY FOR NEW PROGRAMS. CU/EE AT PRESENT ENVISAGES A MODEST FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES UNDER APPROPRIATE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE 1 OF THE AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUDGET POSSIBILITIES AND HUNGARIAN INTEREST. WE PLAN TO DISSEMINATE THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT TO INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AFTER IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER EE COUNTRIES HAS BEEN THAT A GENERALIZED UMBRELLA AGREEMENT FOLLOWED BY SMALL, CONCRETE AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY STEPS IS THE BEST WAY TO BUILD A SUSTAINING RELATIONSHIP. NORMALLY WE WOULD THINK IN TERMS OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGES (BOTH STUDENT AND PROFESSORIAL); A FEW IVP GRANTS; OFFICIALLY SPONSORED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS; A MAJOR SOLO EXHIBIT WITH GUIDES AND ASSOCIATED SEMINARS; AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF A VARIETY OF PRIVATE VISITS AND EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF SUCH A PROCESS. AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT WILL ALLOW FOR ALL ACTIVITIES WITHOUT COMMITTING EITHER SIDE TO A SPECIFIC SCHEDULE FOR ANY OF THEM. ONE MAJOR POINT IN THIS CONNECTION IS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY PLACE ON THE HUNGARIANS' LIFTING THEIR RESTRICTIONS ON THE

EMBASSY'S UTILIZATION OF THE HUNGARIAN MAILS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS. THE EMBASSY WILL RECALL

THAT WE LIFTED OUR RESTRICTIONS IN 1970.

5. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO BUDAPEST 3207 THE DEPARTMENT AND THE AGENCY BELIEVE THAT THE LIMITED PERSONNEL AND PROGRAM FUNDS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE CAN BE BETTER SPENT TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVES IN HUNGARY BY EXPANDING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES RATHER THAN UNDERTAKING THE OPERATION OF A NOT INEXPENSIVE CULTURAL CENTER. AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT APPEARS TO US INADVISABLE TO LAUNCH AN ELABORATE AMERICAN CULTURAL/INFORMATIONAL PRESENCE IN BUDAPEST WITHOUT HAVING FIRMLY ESTABLISHED BROAD AND MUTUALLY EFFECTIVE CONTACTS AND PROGRAMS WITH APPROPRIATE HUNGARIAN ACADEMICS, INTELLECTUALS AND OTHER GROUPS. IN OUR VIEW, THEREFORE, THE QUESTION OF A CULTURAL CENTER IN BUDAPEST SHOULD BE DEFERRED FOR THE TIME BEING. KISSINGER

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